

## **IFIA Agricultural Committee**

**Bulletin: 11-01  
Rev. 4**

### ***Subject: Edible Cereals, Grain, Pulses, Seeds, Sugar, Oils and Fats Fit for Human Consumption Statements***

In the international commodity trade of cereals, seeds, vegetable oils, etc. it is often written into contracts and/or Letters of Credit, and therefore in principals' instructions, that inspection companies should provide certificates that not only report specific quality parameters and results but also provide broad statements of condition. One of these is "fit for human consumption".

Historically, inspection companies have complied with requests for 'fit for human consumption' statements even when there has been no generally accepted specification of what tests should be undertaken in order to support such a statement. There has therefore been considerable variation in the range of tests required.

IFIA's Guidelines state that any statement made by Members with regard to fitness for any particular purpose should be based on relevant analysis. Inspection companies have a duty to perform their work with due care and skill; and this includes exercising reasonable care and diligence in the choice of tests which should be undertaken before making such statements as "fit for human consumption", so as to protect both the inspection company and its client from risks and liabilities.

IFIA member companies are not in a position to judge what makes a product "fit for human consumption" as an inherent value, but can only assess the conformity of test results to specified criteria. In instances where it is believed that insufficient analysis and/or instructions have been made, IFIA member companies will therefore propose to their principals additional testing or procedures so that they can make the required statement regarding the condition of the product with confidence. Where this proposal is not followed, the member company may have no option but to decline to make the necessary statement or qualify the statement in such a way as to reflect the analysis actually performed.

To offer some consistency in this approach, IFIA members have together considered current industry practices in defining the minimum testing requirements to support the issuance of certificates stating "fit for human consumption". This has resulted in the table attached as appendix "A" to this bulletin.

This table identifies eight categories of commodity and specifies the analyses that are considered necessary to support the statement "fit for human consumption" for each.

This is broadly based on the requirements of the CODEX Alimentarius and the World Health Organisation.

The listing is not exhaustive and additional analysis may be necessary. Individual contractual requirements and statutory regulations, provided they are made known, take precedence over the minimum analyses proposed in the table. However, where any customer requirement falls short of the analyses shown in the table, IFIA members will draw this to their principals' attention, and may qualify any statement made or decline to issue certificates stating "fit for human consumption" unless appropriate analyses have been performed.

The table does not seek to establish what limits are acceptable for the analyses listed. IFIA Member companies will normally work to the limits required in the declared country of destination, or, if such are not available, in the country of origin, or Codex Alimentarius.

This bulletin pertains only to Edible Cereals, Grains, Seeds, Pulses, Sugar, Oils and Fats, in their raw state, and is not applicable to any food product.

#### **Revisions**

|              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Rev 0</b> | <b>January 2011</b>   |
| <b>Rev 1</b> | <b>September 2011</b> |
| <b>Rev 2</b> | <b>December 2014</b>  |
| <b>Rev 3</b> | <b>April 2015</b>     |
| <b>Rev 4</b> | <b>September 2017</b> |

**IFIA Agricultural Committee**  
**Rue du Commerce 20-22**  
**1000 Brussels**  
**Tel: +32 2 880 21 37**  
**Email: [secretariat@ifia-federation.org](mailto:secretariat@ifia-federation.org)**

**Appendix "A" to IFIA Agricultural Committee Bulletin 11-01 Rev 4**

**September 2017**

**MINIMUM TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR "FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION" STATEMENTS  
(From CODEX Alimentarius and WHO)**

| ANALYSES                                    | COMMODITIES |       |                    |      |        |       |          |              |        |     |       |
|---|-------------|-------|--------------------|------|--------|-------|----------|--------------|--------|-----|-------|
|   | wheat       | maize | barley/<br>cereals | rice | pulses | sugar | oilseeds | liquids/oils | coffee | tea | cocoa |
| Pesticides                                  |             |       |                    |      |        |       |          |              |        |     |       |
| Organochlorine + PCB                        | X           | X     | X                  | X    | X      |       | X        | X            | X      | X   | X     |
| Organophosphorus                            | X           | X     | X                  | X    | X      |       | X        | X            | X      | X   | X     |
| Pyrethroids                                 | X           | X     | X                  | X    | X      |       | X        | X            | X      | X   | X     |
| <b>Heavy metals</b>                         |             |       |                    |      |        |       |          |              |        |     |       |
| Lead  | X           | X     | X                  | X    | X      | X     | X        | X            | X      | X   | X     |
| Cadmium                                     | X           | X     | X                  | X    | X      | X     | X        | X            | X      | X   | X     |
| Mercury                                     |             |       |                    |      |        | X     | X        | X            |        |     |       |
| Arsenicum                                   |             |       |                    | X    |        | X     | X        |              |        |     |       |
| Copper                                      |             |       |                    |      |        | X     |          | X            |        |     |       |
| Iron  |             |       |                    |      |        | X     |          | X            |        |     |       |
| Zinc  |             |       |                    |      |        | X     |          |              |        |     |       |
| <b>Mycotoxins</b>                           |             |       |                    |      |        |       |          |              |        |     |       |
| Ochratoxin                                  | X           | X     | X                  | X    | X      |       | X        |              | X      |     | X     |
| Deoxynivalenol                              | X           | X     | X                  |      |        |       | X        |              |        |     |       |
| Zearalenone                                 |             | X     |                    |      |        |       |          |              |        |     |       |
| Aflatoxins                                  |             | X     |                    | X    | X      |       | X        |              |        | X   | X     |
| B1  |             | X     |                    | X    | X      |       |          |              |        | X   | X     |
| B1+B2+G1+G2                                 |             | X     |                    | X    | X      |       |          |              |        | X   | X     |
| Fumonisin B1/B2                             |             | X     |                    |      |        |       |          |              |        |     |       |
| Poisonous seeds                             | X           | X     | X                  | X    | X      |       | X        |              | X      | X   | X     |
| Radioactivity<br>(if origin Russia/Ukraine) | X           | X     | X                  | X    | X      | X     | X        | X            | X      | X   | X     |
| Ergot                                       | X           |       | X                  |      |        |       |          |              |        |     |       |
| Organoleptical aspects                      |             |       |                    |      |        |       |          |              |        |     |       |
| Odour                                       | X           | X     | X                  | X    | X      |       | X        |              | X      | X   | X     |
| Visual appearance                           | X           | X     | X                  | X    | X      |       | X        |              | X      | X   | X     |
| Sulphur dioxide                             |             |       |                    |      |        | X     |          |              |        |     |       |